(c) Reservation in promotions is 15% and 7-1/2% upto the lowest rung of Group 'A' services.

(d) Special Recruitment Drive is going on to clear the backlog of reserved posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Construction of Fly Over

5239. LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long pending demand of the people of Deoria to construct a fly over on Railway crossing at Deoria Road; and

((b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for construction of said fly over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demand is to provide road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 129-A at Km. 455/3-4 between Deoria-Sadar and Nunkhar on Gorakhpur-Bhatni section. However, no proposal has been received from the State Govt. for construction of the fly over.

Backlog for Telephone Connections

5240. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT:

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of waiting list for telephone connection as on 31.3.97 in major Towns, Distt. H. Qrs. and rural areas in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of new telephone connections given during each of the last three years at the major cities/towns/ Distt. H. Qrs. and rural areas in Maharashtra and investment made;

(c) the details of achievements on Telecom projects in Maharashtra during 1996-97 and provision of funds likely to be available to the State during 1997-98;

(d) the most outstanding achievement in telecommunication in Maharashtra during 1996-97; and

(e) the details of new proposal for Maharashtra recently clear/under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Special Drive for Recruitment in RPF

5241. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to start Special Drive for recruitment in Railway Protection Force (RPF) for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which the drive is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Drive for recruitment of 300 constables in RPSF from J & K State has been decided by Govt. of India. Accordingly, recruitment at Jammu has been conducted in Jan' 1997. Recruitment in Srinagar and Leh could not be conducted due to bad climate. The date of recruitment at Sringar and Leh will be decided immediately on the report of visiting team of Srinagar and Leh.

[Translation]

Running of Long Distance Train on Shahganj and Mau Junction

5242. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of inauguration of broadgauge line between Shahganj and Mau Junction no new long distance train has been plied on this line so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which new trains are likely to be introduced via Shahganj and Mau junction; and

(d) the details of the trains proposed to be introduced on this section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) To start with, 2 pairs of passenger trains were introduced from 28.3.1997 on Mau-Shahganj section after its conversion into broad gauge. Further, it has also been decided to divert 4649/4650 Delhi-Muzaffarpur/Darbhanga Saryu Yamuna Express and 9165 A/9166 A Ahmedabad-Muzaffarpur Express via Mau-Shahganj during 1997-98.

[English]

Functioning of Rural Telephones

5243. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no Telephones are functioning in rural Panchayat offices, for long time, including those in district of Howrah;

(b) the reasons of non-functioning of telephones;

(c) the steps the Government have taken to improve the telephones; and

(d) the time by when those telephones in Panchayat offices in the district of Howrah and else where are likely to be functioning?